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Message Text

SECRET

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43
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00

OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02

SS-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 DODE-00 /079 W
---------- 078493
O R 041723Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6637
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T BONN 18761

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, GW
SUBJECT: MBFR: INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER IN COMMON CEILING

REFS: (A) STATE 265622, (B) STATE 263866

1. IN VIEW OF THE ABSENCE OF FRG FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL AND DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER ROTH, BOTH OF WHOM ACCOMPANIED CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ON HIS FLIGHT TO WASHINGTON TODAY, WE SPOKE TO MBFR DEPARTMENT HEAD RUTH CONCERNING INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING. SINCE AMBASSADOR ROTH IS NOT AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE CHANCELLOR'S PARTY, WE BELIEVE HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR A PRESENTATION OF THE U.S. POSITION DURING HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON. RUTH INDICATED HE WOULD ADVISE ROTH THAT AN APPROACH ON THIS ISSUE COULD BE ANTICIPATED.

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2. THE POINTS SET FORTH IN REFTEL A WERE DISCUSSED WITH

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RUTH. HE WAS ALSO APPRISED OF THE U.S. DESIRE TO HAVE INSTRUCTIONS APPROVED FOR THE USE AT THE DECEMBER 10 INFORMAL SESSION IN VIENNA. RUTH DID NOT THINK THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE, BUT SEEMED QUITE SANGUINE ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE ALLIANCE AGREEING UPON APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS IN JANUARY. RUTH BELIEVES THE PROBLEMS INHERENT IN ADOPTING A NEW POSITION ON AIR MANPOWER ARE COMPLEX AND IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO WARRANT A FULL EXAMINATION BY ALLIANCE MEMBERS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE MBFR WORKING GROUP PAPER RELATED TO AIR MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING SHOULD ALSO BE READY SOON, AND ALLIANCE DISCUSSIONS ON THE TOPIC SHOULD BE BASED ON ALL RELEVANT STUDIES. RUTH BELIEVES IT POSSIBLE THAT ALLIANCE DISCUSSIONS COULD BEGIN AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK TO DETERMINE HOW TO PROCEED ON THE ISSUE. WITH REGARD TO THE LANGUAGE IN PARA 4.F, REFTEL A ABOUT MAKING IT CLEAR TO THE EAST THAT THIS PROPOSAL IS NOT AN OFFER OF AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS, RUTH SEES A NEED FOR MAKING THIS POINT VERY PRECISE. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES IT CAN BE DONE.

3. RUTH SAID HIS STAFF WAS PRESENTLY EXAMINING THE U.S. PAPER ON AIR MANPOWER (REF B), AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE CAREFUL NOTE OF THE U.S. ARGUMENTS PRESENTED. RUTH SAID ONE THING THAT STRUCK HIM ABOUT THE PAPER WAS THE LACK OF DISCUSSION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROPOSED REDEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES AND THE DEFINITION OF THE COMMON CEILING. SINCE THE TWO OBVIOUSLY INTERACT, HE FEELS THAT IT IS AN IMPORTANT TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION AND CAREFUL ANALYSIS BY ALLIANCE MEMBERS WHICH THUS FAR HAS NOT BEEN FULLY ADDRESSED.
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